

HEAD POLARITY DETECTION ALGORITHM AND APPARATUS**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of determining and monitoring head polarity of data heads
5 comprises performing a head polarity detection routine. The head polarity detection
routine comprises the step of setting a read gate period duration to a first value. The
routine also comprises searching for a good address mark signal during a first read
gate period with a channel polarity set to a first polarity. The routine further
comprises identifying a polarity of a data head based upon the channel polarity
10 when the good address mark is detected.